



WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

**DR DALHATU SARKI TAFIDA, OFR
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**AT THE
MAIDEN SEMINAR ON
ENGAGING THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**ORGANISED BY
THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH-NIGERIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
(ABLE)**

**AT THE CONFERENCE HALL
NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION
LONDON, THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2009**

Professor (Mrs) Dr Dora Nkem Akunyili, (OFR)
Honourable Minister of Information and Communication,

Mrs Farida Waziri (AIG, Rtd)
Chairperson
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC)

Chief Chukwurah Udeh (OFR),
Comptroller-General
Nigerian Immigration Service

Alhaji Dikko Inde Abdullahi (MFR)
Comptroller-General
Nigerian Customs Service

His Excellency, Ambassador Dozie Nwanna, (OON)
Deputy High Commissioner of Nigeria to the United Kingdom

Detective Superintendent Russell Day
(Representing Sir Paul Stephenson, Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police)

Mr Richard Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Damilola Taylor Foundation

Dr Mark Abani
President of Central Association of Nigerians in the UK (CANUK)

Dr Alistair Soyode
Chief Exective Officer of BEN-TV and Chairman of Nigerians in the Diaspora Organisation (NIDO- Europe),

Mr Kayode Ogunsola
Chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (UK South Chapter)

Ms Yemisi Jenkins
President, British Nigerian Law Enforcement Officers (ABLE) and members of her Executive Committee,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the singular honour and privilege to welcome you to this Seminar on engaging the Nigerian communities in the United Kingdom in law enforcement. I am particularly delighted to welcome to our midst, the representative of the Metropolitan Police Chief and the high level delegations that have come from Nigeria to participate in this Seminar. This demonstrates the importance you attach to the theme of the Seminar and the potentials it has in assisting in better law enforcement not just in the UK but also back at home. In the global village of interdependence, no country can succeed in law enforcement and crime prevention without the cooperation and collaboration of other friendly countries beyond its shores such as the United Kingdom.

2. Without doubt, effective law enforcement and routine obedience of the law, arising from the compliance habits and culture of the citizenry are the bedrock of a modern democratic society. Yet crimes and criminality are inevitable features of all societies, getting more acute in societies in transition. This is why a country such as Nigeria must take advantage of every opportunity to seek closer collaboration and partnership with advanced societies like the United Kingdom, in sharing knowledge and experience of best practices in law enforcement. We must continue to explore all means of enhancing and building state institutions and civil society organisations for effective community policing and law enforcement. This also entails regular exchange of intelligence and information on crime prevention and control between law enforcement agencies in the UK and their Nigerian counterparts.

3. As Government's economic and social programmes continue to impact more positively on the lives of the vast majority of Nigerians, I am confident that the incidence of criminality in our country would be reduced to the barest minimum in no distant future. I will like, therefore, to commend the efforts of the Association of British-Nigeria Law Enforcement Offices (ABLE), for this wonderful initiative of building a bridge between the British law enforcement agencies and their Nigerian

counterparts on the one hand, and local Nigerian communities in the UK on the other.

4. Through hard work and impressive performances in your work places, you are worthy examples of the **Nigerian brand**; the epitome of who we are as a people, thereby helping to change and shape perceptions in the UK of our country and its people. This is an essential component of the re-branding efforts of the Federal Government.

5. Your effort in closely identifying with your mother country Nigeria is highly commendable. This is why I had no hesitation in accepting to serve as the Patron of ABLE, convinced that the organisation has immense potentials in forging strategic partnerships with Nigerian law enforcement agencies, while also reaching out to the vibrant Nigerian communities in the UK. I urge other Nigerian groups in the UK to emulate this initiative on the part of ABLE so that, together and in partnership, we can build a nation of our collective dream. Nigerian communities in the UK who share similar visions can rest assured of the maximum cooperation and support of the Nigeria High Commission under my watch.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. With these few remarks, may I, once again, welcome you all to this Seminar, and particularly to the Nigeria High Commission. I wish you fruitful deliberations and safe journey back to your respective destinations.

7. I thank you for your attention.